

House Bill 387  
February 10, 2011  
Presented by Dave Risley  
House Fish, Wildlife & Parks Committee

EXHIBIT 11  
DATE 2/10/11  
HB 387

Mr. Chairman and committee members, I am Dave Risley, Fish and Wildlife Division Administrator of Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP). I am here in opposition to House Bill 387.

As we understand this HB387, it will create an "Early Bird" application process for Nonresident B-10 and B-11 combination licenses and Preference Point System for certain nonresidents hunting license and permits and will also provide 10% of the number of special permits to nonresidents.

Our opposition stems from the preference system for permits. By providing 10% of special permits to nonresidents, HB387 will increase the number of special permits issued to nonresidents in many Hunting Districts. For example, in HD 380-20 the number of nonresidents who drew a special elk permit in 2010 was 2, and under the 10% proposed in HB372, it would increase to 11 nonresident hunters drawing special elk permits.

The Early Bird application process will allow for 40% of the B10 and 40% of the B11 licenses to be issued to Nonresidents who apply between September 1 and January 1 and pay an additional \$300 fee. A drawing will be conducted if the number of applications exceeds the quota.

The Preference Point System will be applied to the remaining 60% of the B10 and B11 quotas, with an application deadline of March 15. A drawing will be conducted giving 75% of the quota to applicants with preference points and the remaining 25% will be given to applicants without preference points. A Preference Point System will also be applied to nonresident Elk and Deer Permits.

HB387 also allows individuals who know they will not be able to hunt in Montana the next year, the ability to purchase a Preference Point without applying for the B10 or B11 license between July 1 and September 30 of the prior license year. If an individual purchases a Preference Point they cannot apply for a B10 or B11 license for the same year.

Additionally, the party number of six is inconsistent with the party number of five for all other parties issued by the Department.

Thank You.